

REMARKS

The present application was filed on November 21, 2003 with claims 1-20. Claims 1-20 were pending in the application before the present amendment. Claims 1, 19 and 20 are the independent claims.

In the Office Action, claims 1-12 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art of FIG. 2 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,059,899 to Farnworth et al. (hereinafter “Farnworth”). In addition, claims 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art of FIG. 2 in view of Farnworth, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,681,352 to Fredrickson (hereinafter “Fredrickson”).

The Examiner indicates that dependent claims 13-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 13 is dependent on claim 11, while claims 14-16 are dependent on claim 13.

In order to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants choose to amend the limitations of dependent claims 11 and 13 (indicated as being allowable) to independent claims 1, 19 and 20. In accordance with these changes, claims 11 and 13 are presently canceled. Moreover, claims 14-16 are amended so that these claims become dependent on claim 1 rather than claim 13.

Applicants believe that the above amendment will place claims 1-10, 12 and 14-20 into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Michael L. Wise
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 55,734
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
90 Forest Avenue
Locust Valley, NY 11560
(516) 759-2722